

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

/041 W

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R 031617Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 406

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST FORM "FRONTIST" ADMINISTRATION  
IN GENOA

SUMMARY: FORMATION OF A "FRONTIST" SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST CITY  
ADMINISTRATION IN GENOA APRIL 2 HAS SHARPENED NATIONWIDE PRE-  
ELECTORAL POLEMICS BETWEEN THE DC AND THE PSDI ON ONE HAND AND  
THE PSI ON THE OTHER. IN LIGURIA, WHICH IS A REGION THE LEFT  
THREATENS TO CAPTURE IN THE JUNE REGIONAL ELECTIONS, THE DC  
REPORTEDLY MAY REACT IMMEDIATELY BY PUTTING THE PROVINCIAL  
AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ALSO INTO CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CENTER-LEFT ADMINISTRA-  
TION SOME WEEKS AGO, THE GENOA PSI OPTED APRIL 1 FOR AN  
ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS. REPORTEDLY, THIS ALTERNATIVE  
WON A MAJORITY AMONG THE GENOA PSI AFTER THE DC HAD REFUSED  
TO ACCEDE TO A PSI DEMAND FOR A PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP.  
ELECTION OF THE CITY'S FIRST SOCIALIST MAYOR IN 24 YEARS  
OCCURRED APRIL 2. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS TECHNICALLY A  
MINORITY ONE SINCE IT HAS ONLY 40 OF THE COUNCIL'S 80 VOTES,  
BUT THE ELECTION OF THE NEW SOCIALIST MAYOR COULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
BLOCKED EXCEPT BY AN ALLIANCE WITH THE MSI WHICH NONE OF THE  
OTHER PARTIES DESIRED. THE PCI, WHICH IS THE PARTY OF RELATIVE  
MAJORITY IN GENOA, HAS 12 OF THE 18 SEATS ON THE NEW CITY JUNTA.

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2. THE GENOA PSI DECISION IS A SUCCESS FOR THE PARTY'S LEFT-WING (LOMBARDI) FACTION, SUPPORTED, FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL AMBITION AND RIVALRY, BY SOME PROFESSED MEMBERS OF THE DEMARTINO MAJORITY, AND HAS BEEN LONG IN THE MAKING. THE PSI IN GENOA HAS BEEN HOLDING FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE LOCAL PCI OVER THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITY FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND ITS LEFT-WING SPOKESMEN HAVE FREQUENTLY CALLED, ALLONG WITH THE COMMUNISTS, FOR A NEW ALLIANCE "OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES." IN THE PAST, THE GENOA DEMARTINO MAJORITY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, HAD PUT AN END TO ATTEMPTS TO FORCE SUCH A SOLUTION. IN THE EVENT, THE ABOVE FACTORS COMBINED WITH BOTH THE PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND THE IDEOLOGICAL BIAS OF THE LOMBARDIANO PSI FACTION LEADER, TO DEFEAT PSI PERSUASION FROM ROME.

3. THE DC NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REACTED PROMPTLY AND BRUSQUELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT, AND IS INSISTING ON RETALIATION BY EXCLUDING THE PSI FROM THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE PROVINCE OF GENOA AND THE LIGURIAN REGION, WHERE THE PSI DOES NOT HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER. PSDI NATIONAL SECRETARY ORLANDI HAS LABELED THE NEW JUNTA A "QUARTER CENTURY LEAP BACKWARD" AND THE REPROPOSAL OF A SHARP CONFRONTATION IN THE COUNTRY. FOR THE PSI DE MARTINO LEADERSHIP, IT IS JUDGED "A USELESS AND MISTAKEN CHOICE" WHICH IT WAS UNABLE TO DISSUADE, DESPITE STRENUOUS EFFORT, AND WHICH IT CANNOT OPENLY DISAVOW. THE NATIONAL PRI, WHOSE GENOA REPRESENTATIVES PLAYED A SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS ROLE IN THE CIRISIS, HAS NOT YET TAKEN A FORMAL STAND. THE COMMUNIST ORGAN UNITA TRUMPETED THAT "GENOA IS NOW THE LARGEST CITY OF CAPITALIST EUROPE ADMINISTERED BY THE LEFT."

4. COMMENT: ABOUT THE ONLY PARTY FULLY SATISFIED WITH THE TURN OF EVENT IN GENOA IS THE PCI; AS IT STANDS THE ALLIANCE WITH THE PSI IN GENOA CAN PROMOTE EITHER THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE OR THE GRAND ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT, DEPENDING ON WHAT COMES NEXT. FOR THE PSI DE MARTINO LEADERSHIP, THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT IS AN EMBARRASSMENT, AND PROMOTES WHAT IT IS MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS INTO A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE CENTER-RIGHT. FOR THE DC IT CAN PROVE TO BE ANOTHER FRUITFUL ELECTORAL ISSUE WITH WHICH TO ATTACK THE PSI, BUT ONE WHICH

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COULD BOOMERANG IN A REGION IN WHICH THE PCI IS SO STRONG. IT MAY ALSO CAUSE NEW INTERNAL STRAINS BETWEEN FANFANI AND TAVIANI, THE DC LEADER OF LIGURIA, WHO APPARENTLY FAVORED ACCEDING TO PSI DEMANDS FOR A PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP, AND IS LIKELY TO RESIST RETALIATORY MOVES WHICH WOULD SHARPEN THE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTION IN LIGURIA INTO A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH THE LEFT. BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, POLITICAL PARTIES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ELECTION FORECASTS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750116-0695  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750485/aaaaczoa.tel  
**Line Count:** 114  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST FORM "FRONTIST" ADMINISTRATION IN GENOA  
**TAGS:** PINT, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006